



Ontario
Ministry of the
Environment

Ontario
Non-Governmental
Organizations

Habitat Projects Report

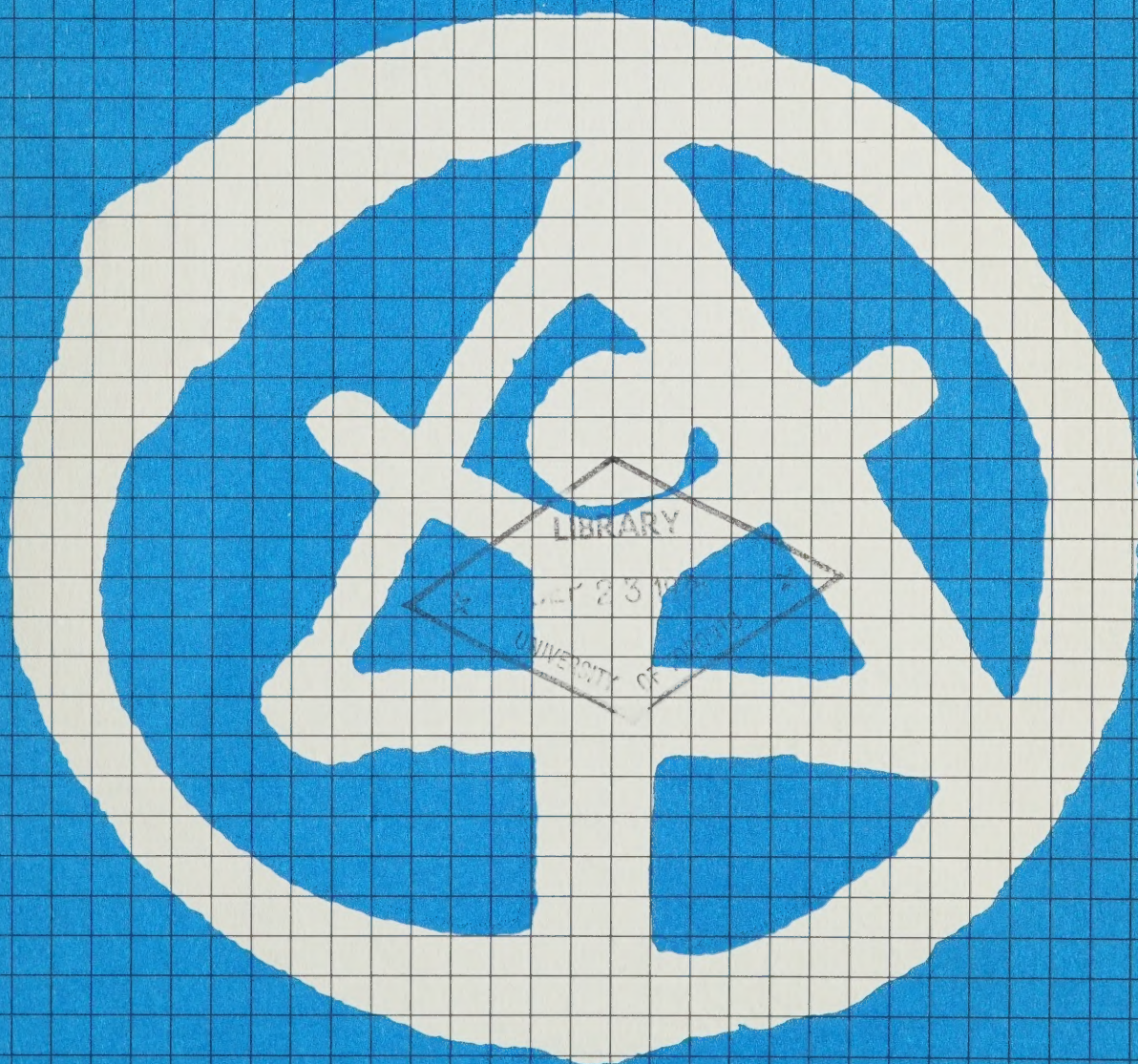
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NON - GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

ACTION PROJECTS REPORT

JUNE, 1976

NOTE: THIS IS NOT AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT OF THE
ONTARIO GOVERNMENT. IT WAS PREPARED FOR THE
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS--
ONTARIO WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE ONTARIO SECRETARIAT
FOR HABITAT.

1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HANDBOOK-
UNION OF ONTARIO INDIANS

Non-Governmental Organizations working on the "Economic Development on Reserves" project are printing and distributing a handbook to Indian reserves in order to facilitate the creation of a central industry compatible with the Indian people's values and goals. (Page 2)

2. ALTERNATIVE ENERGY CAMPAIGN-ENERGY PROBE

Those organizations touring with the "Alternative Energy Campaign" will be debunking some of the myths about the inapplicability of renewable energy sources and interesting the public in the potential of alternative energy in order to reduce the dependency on non-renewable energy sources. (Page 3)

3. VOLUNTARY SOCIAL PLANNING COMMUNICATION-
ONTARIO WELFARE COUNCIL

The "Voluntary Social Planning Communication" project participants will be establishing social planning groups in interested small communities which have limited access to professional planning resources. (Page 4)

4. PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT GUIDE-
CONSERVATION COUNCIL

The "Planning and Management Guide" project will encourage urban ecological diversity and protection by providing the method for laymen to identify and classify urban natural resources. (Page 6)

5. COMMUNITY HEALTH THROUGH FAMILY PLANNING-
PLANNED PARENTHOOD ONTARIO

Non-Governmental Organizations will be assisting Ontario communities without adequate family planning services by holding workshops on organizing effective action centres in the project called "Community Health Through Family Planning". (Page 7)

6. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS EDUCATIONAL FORUM-
ONTARIO ANTI-POVERTY ORGANIZATION/COALITION

The "Human Settlements Educational Forum" will bring together those of lower income, the handicapped and the aged of the Province with representatives of organizations and resource persons in order to share practical and tangible solutions to existing problems. (Page 7)

7. A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO BEING A TENANT-
FEDERATION OF METRO TENANTS ASSOCIATIONS

Those organizations involved with the production and distribution of "A Practical Guide to Being a Tenant" will be providing resource information to Ontario tenants who seek collective solutions to their rental difficulties. (Page 8)

8. HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE REDUCTION AD -
GARBAGE COALITION

The "Household Garbage Reduction Ad" project will, 1) inform organizations across Ontario how to use television as a medium and, 2) deal with household garbage reduction through the message stating that garbage not acquired in the first place will not become solid waste in the end. (Page 9)

9. FOOD CO-OP PROJECT-
TORONTO FEDERATION OF FOOD CO-OPERATIVES

Areas of Ontario visited by organizations involved with the "Food Co-op Project" will be defeating the problem of high food costs through the expansion a low-cost community oriented food distribution system based on co-op principles. (Page 10)

10. NATIONAL SURVIVAL PROJECT-
THE NATIONAL SURVIVAL INSTITUTE

The "National Survival" project will use the organizations of Ontario to mobilize public action in the human settlements areas of energy, food and population through the establishment of local discussion groups. (Page 10)

11. HOUSING RESEARCH PROTOTYPE-
THUNDER BAY ANTI-POVERTY ORGANIZATION

Low income and Native groups will be developing a prototype research study which will enable them and any other organization to determine their own housing needs with the "Housing Research Prototype" project. (Page 11)

12. PENSIONERS JOURNAL-
CANADIAN PENSIONERS CONCERNED

The "Pensioner Journal" project will incorporate organizations with a wide range of expertise in order to provide valuable information on housing, social services and other items of concern to the senior citizens of the Province. (Page 11)

13. PILOT BROADCASTING WIKWEMIKONG RESERVE-
UNION OF ONTARIO INDIANS

This project is an attempt to improve the quality and conduct of private and public life for all Reserves through a better and more responsive use of radio and television. (Page 12)

INTRODUCTION

Habitat, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements was the first world conference addressing solutions to human settlement problems. "Human Settlements", refers to all sizes of communities, as well as, their amenities and necessities of life, such as housing, services and cultural traditions. The official Habitat Conference was for governments only. Yet, those planning the Conference recognized that, while government can provide solutions to many problems, the experience and resources held by non-governmental organizations represent a wealth of solutions to human settlement problems. In order to share these solutions, non-governmental organizations participated in a parallel Conference the Habitat Forum.

In preparation for Habitat, Ontario, like many of the other Provinces sought to involve non-governmental organizations. On February 13, 1976, the Ontario Secretariat for Habitat informed a conference of non-governmental organizations that support would be given to projects which developed province-wide awareness and knowledge of human settlement solutions.

In order to develop such awareness the NGO's attending this meeting felt that outlying areas should have the same access to NGO resources and expertise as those in major centres have. As well, because many organizations work by themselves, unaware that other organizations may be working on different aspects of the same problem, there seemed to be a need for greater communication and co-ordination among NGO's involved with human settlements issues. The organizations present suggested the initiation of an Action Program which would encourage NGO's to pool their resources in an attempt to solve some of the problems of human habitation in Ontario, on an ongoing basis.

The implementation of the suggested Action Program called for:

1. the compilation of a publication known as the "NGO Resource Network", a booklet listing key contacts, the *raison d'être*, resources and membership distribution of most of the Ontario wide organizations concerned with human settlement issues,
2. the formation of an organization known as Human

Settlements--Ontario, which consists of groups involved with co-operating and co-ordinating their activities to solve human settlement problems occurring in Ontario,

3. the support of NGO Action Projects.

Each Action Project supported was required to produce a tangible, practical and operational solution to a human settlement problem. It was compulsory that the process being utilized to complete the project be transferable so that other settlements in Ontario experiencing similar problems could derive benefit. The only projects considered were those that maintained a high degree of co-ordination and co-operation among a variety of NGO's.

The following account is more than a description of the thirteen Action Projects supported; it is an example of what non-governmental organizations can accomplish when they decide to co-operate with one another and co-ordinate their activities to solve human settlements problems.

1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HANDBOOK-
UNION OF ONTARIO INDIANS

Today, Indian communities in Ontario are perhaps the least developed human settlements in the Province. The gradual destruction of community values and the traditional economy coupled with the advent of the welfare system, a paternalistic form of policy administration by the Department of Indian Affairs, and the shattering impact of different and more aggressive cultures and peoples making their homes in the surrounding areas, have led to numerous problems in Indian life in Ontario today. These problems manifest themselves in the disproportionately high rates of unemployment, alcoholism, crime, suicide, family breakdowns and the general social and cultural disorientation which is occurring on reserves.

In the past, Federal and Provincial assistance to Indian communities for their economic development has been linked directly to the advancement of individual initiative rather than to the economy of the community as a whole. The Indian

people have realized that there is a necessity for both economic development as well as developmental programs oriented towards the Indian community as a coherent social unit. As well, they have realized that the advancement of the individual on a reserve has little effect on the economy of the community, since whatever project that person undertakes will bring money into the community for only a short time.

The "Economic Development Handbook" project is intended to facilitate the creation of a central industry within the community, compatible with its values, and creating enough employment that the wealth acquired could "spin off" to create a livelihood for others. This would be accomplished through an explanation, in easily understandable terms, of the importance of the creation of a central economic structure: the importance and methods of planning, the types of financing available and the means of gaining access to them (and their consequences); legal consequences of economic activities on reserves; and the ways and means of choosing the type of economic structure that would be most advantageous to and compatible with the community.

The Economic Development Handbook will be structured in such a way that all Ontario reserves can adapt the information to their own situation. The Union of Ontario Indians will ensure that key people in all reserves receive a copy.

2. ALTERNATIVE ENERGY CAMPAIGN

The sun is a clean continuous energy source, and nobody owns it. Because of this, solar and other alternative sources of energy have a tremendous potential. For example, solar space heating could provide up to 50% of Canada's domestic energy requirements within a decade. Solar energy could also make possible many alternative forms of life styles and work in a wide range of climates and geographical locations.

Organizations involved with the "Alternative Energy Campaign" will be debunking some of the myths about the inapplicability

of renewable energy sources and educating the public in the potential of alternative energy. This Campaign stresses more rigorous conservation of energy rather than the expansion of the existing 'energy base'. It also encourages the development of renewable energy sources rather than large-scale, capital and resource intensive systems and it suggests that energy be measured in terms of efficiency of return. The long range good is to reduce the dependency on non-renewable energy sources through the creation of a climate which compels government and industry to more renewable sources.

The "Alternative Energy Campaign" in Ontario will be part of a Canada wide campaign by Energy Probe involving booklets, a speaking tour, and radio and television advertisements. The booklet and slide show will focus attention upon why renewable energy sources must be considered, what the sources are and how an alternative energy society might work. This campaign will also provide some momentum toward the establishment of an alternative energy society. The speaking tour will serve the purpose of helping to co-ordinate and encourage individuals and citizens' groups concerned with the issue. The concept of alternative energy will be broadcast through the public service media network.

Organizations in each city will be approached and asked to participate in the discussion of Alternative Energy. The following Ontario communities have been or will be visited; Thunder Bay, Saulte Ste. Marie, Sudbury, North Bay, Kitchener, Hamilton, London, Windsor, Kingston and Ottawa.

3. VOLUNTARY SOCIAL PLANNING COMMUNICATION

A new approach to solving local problems and meeting local needs has been developing in nearly sixty communities across the province. People from all sectors in these towns have gathered to form groups which attempt to apply a planning approach to a variety of problems ranging from housing to day care and from a need for Meals-on-Wheels to senior citizen recreation centres. By involving volunteers and staff from non-government organizations, voluntary social planning brings

broad representation to community problem solving, and offers an invaluable perspective to local government, public service organizations and users of the broadest range of community services.

Linkage with other voluntary social planning groups is an invaluable resource for members of those groups. Personal contact can establish on-going linkages through which information and experience in problem-solving can be shared, and optimal use of volunteer participants can be obtained.

A majority of the social planning groups exist in small communities which have limited access to professional planning resources. Their primary resource for social planning is the professional staff person at the Ontario Welfare Council--but that resource is not full time and has the entire province as territory. A need for increased access to professional resources is important for the continuance and strengthening of voluntary social planning groups in isolated communities.

The "Voluntary Social Planning" project involves communicating information about social planning in northern and smaller communities wanting to solve community problems or meet community needs through a social planning approach. This project has two parts. Part one is a series of four or five area meetings of people interested in social planning. These meetings will take place in selected small communities throughout the Province and bring together people from a number of small communities. The program of each meeting will be developed and carried out by local residents and representatives of voluntary agencies in order that maximum local relevance is achieved. Part two of this program is an Information Packet containing material which would be helpful to individuals and groups wanting to start a voluntary social planning organization.

The Ontario Welfare Council will ensure that through this action project, a) people in a number of small communities throughout the province who are interested in promoting and implementing social planning will gain technical information, b) people will establish personal contact with others with similar interests, and thus gain practical knowledge about

social planning and establish channels for expansion of that knowledge.

4. PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT GUIDE

The constantly growing demand for outdoor recreation and retreat is most patent in the urban situation where access to areas providing these human requirements is sadly lacking. If the constraints of land availability and resource supplies are to be recognized we must begin to put to better use that land within the city that people can use easily. Within the open space fabric of the city there exists an astonishingly wide variety of natural environments that have withstood the pressures of urbanization. Stands of pine and hardwoods, ground flora, wetlands and other plant associations that support a diverse animal and bud population still exist in the valleys and ravines. Man-made environments occur that have formed the basis for new vegetative and faunal associations. Examples are the rail and hydro rights of way, industrial waste spaces, abandoned lots and vacant spaces in downtown areas. Needless to say, the implications of this situation for settlement planning, environmental management, education, social and community betterment and personal psychological well being are manifold.

The "Planning and Management Guide" is a joint project by the thirty-one organizations making up the Conservation Council. The intent of the guide is to capitalize on the inventory and mapping work already done for the "Urban Landscape" within Metropolitan Toronto. It will provide a methodology for indentifying resources and preserving, managing and creating natural areas within the city. This will be accomplished through the classification of habitat in terms of its actual and potential ecological significance which, will be simple enough to allow the non-biologist to make initial judgments on the significance of sites. Consideration will be given to the ability of natural areas to withstand human intrusion, the issue of ownership and current maintenance policies by a variety of agencies.

5. COMMUNITY HEALTH THROUGH FAMILY PLANNING

Organizations involved with the "Community Health Through Family Planning" project have a firm conviction that access to family planning is a basic human right, and that lack of adequate family planning services is at the heart of many of the problems of human settlements. This means that in order to make intelligent choices about family size relative to both individual and community concerns, people must have free access to sex education and information about birth control.

The "Community Health Through Family Planning" project will bring together people from six different communities where services are either absent or slowly developing. By providing information about the development of family planning services per se, and bringing interested people into contact with resource people who can share information about the function of non-governmental organizations in the community, participants in the workshop will be able to work responsibly toward the integration of family planning services into the fabric of their communities.

The workshop, convened by Planned Parenthood Ontario will prepare participants for their role in organizing effective action centres. After the workshop it will be up to the participants to go back to their home communities, prepared to work. The areas selected for development are Sarnia, Guelph, Belleville, Thunder Bay and Barrie.

6. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS EDUCATIONAL FORUM

The "Human Settlements Educational Forum" will provide an initial opportunity for non-governmental organizations to meet together in an atmosphere of co-operation, to exchange information and to co-ordinate the pooling of their resources in an attempt to work out solutions to those human settlement problems that specifically relate to lower income groups. The Plenary Sessions and Study Sessions will be solution-oriented, designed to produce tangible and operational approaches to problems such as housing, employment, legal and credit counselling, and personal problems particular to single parents, adolescents, youth,

the aged and the handicapped.

In seeking solutions to the above human settlement problems, delegates from across Ontario will receive pertinent resource material and will have access to persons who are recognized to have expertise in the particular problem areas. The delegates will also have an opportunity to share experience in the case where individual groups have succeeded in finding the solution to a particular human settlement problem.

Many organizations are participating in the "Human Settlements Educational Forum". The Ontario Anti-Poverty Organization/Coalition is responsible for the co-ordination of the Forum. The Ontario Welfare Council, the Social Planning Council, Ontario Association of Professional Social Workers, Parkdale Legal Services, Union of Ontario Indians, Pensioners Concerned, Institute of Chartered Accountants and Central Neighbourhood House, are supplying the expertise in workshops such as "Identifying and Utilizing the Services of Paraprofessionals in Solving Human Settlements Problems, Family Budgeting, Income Tax Preparation and The Single Parent".

7. A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO BEING A TENANT

Because many tenants are ignorant of their rights, fearful of their landlord, cautions about working with their fellow tenants and completely unaware of how a tenants association may be formed and maintained, access to organizing resource and support services are vital to tenants who wish to solve their problems collectively. In large urban centres, tenants have been able to call upon a number of non-governmental organizations for this expertise and assistance, yet, outside these urban centres, tenants are isolated from adequate organizing information and professional and financial resources. Organizations working on the "Practical Guide to Being a Tenant" project feel that the lack of human resources can be offset through the provision of readily available printed information on tenant organization.

This project involves the compilation, printing and distribution of a booklet to guide tenants who want to learn some-

thing about the problems and pitfalls of being a tenant and who want to do something collectively about those problems. The proposed style and format of the booklet will allow participants to reach the broadest possible audience. The material will be relevant to all types of tenants throughout Ontario.

The Federation of Metro Tenants Associations, the main organization involved with the project will be distributing the booklet to tenant contacts in Ottawa, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, London, Kingston and Windsor. Once the booklet is distributed, tenants across Ontario will have an information source and a source of personal contact so that human settlement problems particular to tenants can be addressed.

8. HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE REDUCTION AD

The "Household Garbage Reducation Ad" project will serve the dual purposes of dealing with the problem of garbage reduction and educating various organizations how to use the television medium to convey a message.

Because Ontario faces a garbage crisis with a population that disposes up to five pounds per person each day, larger urban areas are forced to cannibalize rural and wilderness areas for sanitary landfill sites. Although plans are being made by the various levels of government to recover resources and energy from waste, little has been done to reduce the generation and marketing of garbage. The "Household Garbage Reducation Ad" project will approach the problem of garbage at a more basic level with the message that garbage not acquired in the first place will not become solid waste is the end. This is to say, recycling is too often seen as the panacea to garbage problems. This project, supervised by the Garbage Coalition, gives household reduction high priority as the long range solution to energy, resource and land waste/solid waste and thereby benefits the entire community of Ontario through lowered consumer, taxpayer, and environmental costs.

Enclosed with the "Household Garbage Reducation Ad" is a two sided fact sheet which describes the process of creating

and marketing the ad so that other groups could apply the same type of solution to their particular problem. The total information packet is intended to be an example of what a citizen group can do. Citizens in the sixteen Ontario centres with television stations are using the information to negotiate television time so that reduction message can be broadcast.

9. FOOD CO-OP PROJECT

Having access to low cost food sources will provide the lower income residents of the province with a relief in day to day expenses. During the summer of 1976 organizations involved with the Food Co-op Project will be sharing information and resources in order to develop an alternative and low cost community oriented food distribution system based on co-op principles. The main organization involved, the Toronto Federation of Food Co-operatives will be meeting with food clubs and co-ops in Ottawa, Windsor, London, Chatham, Clayton and Kingston. Through these meetings the experiences of groups will be shared and the co-op network will be expanded so that greater sources of lower priced food can be made available.

10. NATIONAL SURVIVAL PROJECT

The creation of a well-informed public is critical to the identification of, and subsequent solving of human settlement problems. Efforts thus far have been fragmented and temporary, whereas the setting-up of a permanent community-based organization to deal with problems identified as important by citizens of a given community, will ensure a continuity of approach. The "National Survival Project" will foster general awareness of global problems as well as use the organizations of Ontario to mobilize public action in the human settlements areas of energy, food and population. Local discussion groups will be established through the following aids:

1. a manual of procedure which outlines how to

set up community discussion groups,

2. a multi-image slide presentation discusses the 'Survival Lifestyle',
3. a brochure distributed to members of participating organizations which outlines the need for community discussion groups. Through these efforts, the National Survival Institute, the main organization involved, will facilitate action on human settlements issues across the Province.

11. HOUSING RESEARCH PROTOTYPE

Some of the organizations in northern Ontario have identified a research priority concerning the specific types of accommodation needed to house low-income, native people, senior citizens and students. These organizations have also recognized that other areas in Ontario, facing similar human settlement problem, experience difficulty in obtaining information. Because of this northern Ontario organizations have embarked in the 'Housing Research Prototype' project

It is intended that any Ontario community having access to the 'Housing Research Prototype' will be able to research its housing needs. The Thunder Bay Anti-Poverty Organization will co-ordinate local groups working on the project, and then ensure that it is distributed to other communities.

12. PENSIONERS' JOURNAL

Organizations working on the "Pensioner Journal" project recognize that information about Health, Food, Nutrition and Housing is often not reaching the people who would derive most benefit. This project incorporates organizations with a wide range of expertise in order to provide valuable information on housing, social services and other items of concern to the senior citizens of the Province. The Canadian Pensioners Concerned will distribute the Journal province wide.

Through this distribution, human settlements problems of the aged, caused by lack of information about existing social and housing programs, will be available. As a result, individuals, groups and communities can participate in action needed to improve society to the mutual benefit of all.

13. PILOT BROADCASTING AT THE WIKWEMIKONG RESERVE

Modern communications technology may easily contribute to the process by which a minority is rapidly deprived of its cultural identity and forced to conform to the standards of the dominant society. But, on the other hand, that same technology, if properly applied with careful consideration to the needs and aspirations of the people it is to serve, can be a major positive factor in their transitional period. The "Wikwemikong Pilot Broadcasting" project is an attempt by the people of the Wikwemikong Reserve to improve the quality and conduct of private and public life for all Reserves through a better and more responsive use of radio and television.

In the course of this project the Union of Ontario Indians is assisting rural children and adults on Wikwemikong in the design and production of their own cultural and educational programs broadcast on a community broadcasting station.

The first phase of the project involves the implementation and pilot testing of the method. In group sessions village participants are being assisted by professionals to evaluate the educational and cultural programing needs of the community. The residents of Wikwemikong are identifying broad program goals, specifying program content objectives, selecting appropriate content for their viewing audience, and selecting examples to illustrate the content. Several educational and cultural programs will be produced on such subjects as legend and story telling by older residents, sporting events such as hockey and talks by community leaders and band representatives.

Phase two begins once production routines are established in the original production community. Through the co-operation of Wikwemikong volunteers, training will be recycled in other selected communities requesting the service. As soon as addi-

tional communities are in production, a 'dog-sled' distribution system will be established. An intervillage tape exchange system will provide villages with a new channel for horizontal communication through which ideas for community education and culture can be shared. When the project is completed or at least firmly established, an on-going inter-reserve exchange system should be fully operational and supervised by the Union of Ontario Indians.

